have been sanctioned to 3 mills for rehabilitation/modernisation and to 4 mills for cane development schemes. 3 Loan applications are under consideration.

World Bank Assistance for Technical Education

*299. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of World Bank Assistance for technical education during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent so far out of it; and

(c) the reasons for non-utilisation of the remaining funds?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The World Bank has agreed to provide credit assistance of Special Drawing Raights (SDR) 373.3 million over the period 1990-99 under two projects for modernising and upgrading Technician Education covering AICTE recognised polytechnics in 16 States and one Union Territory.

(b) Against the above credit, SDR 6.08 million have been utilised upto the end of February, 1992.

(c) The first project became operational on 5.12.1990 and the second on 29.1.1992. After making detailed preparations for project implementation, the States have started incurring expenditure and claiming reimbursement against the credit.

Investment from NRIs

*300. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to invite private investment from the Gulf-based NRIs for the development of the railway transport infrastructure in the country especially for the Konkan Railway Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Meetings with representative groups of NRIs in Saudi Arabia, Dubai and Sharjah were held recently. The response from the NRIs was encouraging.

[*Translation*]

Pantry Cars on Long Distance Trains

*301. SHRI MANKU RAM SODHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether catering facilities provided in Mahanadi and Amarkantak Expresses are not adequate;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide pantry cars on all long distance trains, including Mahanadi and Amarkantak Expresses, for providing better catering facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Catering facilities for passengers by these trains are considered adequate.

(b) No, Sir.